

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 302

By Ragan

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the citizens of Oak Ridge upon the celebration of the city's seventieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those estimable cities that are celebrating milestones in their history; and

WHEREAS, one such notable city is Oak Ridge, the citizens of which will be celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the city's founding; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, less than a year after the Pearl Harbor attack, President Franklin Roosevelt made the decision to launch a large-scale effort to create the world's first atomic bomb; the task was code-named the "Manhattan Project"; and

WHEREAS, to make way for the Manhattan Project, people living in the Tennessee communities of Wheat, Robertsville, Scarbrough, East Fork Valley, Gravel Hill, New Hope, Melton Hill, Lupton Crossroads, and Elza were forced to move, sometimes with as little as two weeks' notice, and displaced from their homes, businesses, schools, and churches; and

WHEREAS, the Clinton Engineer Works site, including Oak Ridge, the Secret City, was fenced off and patrolled by armed guards in vehicles and on horseback; and

WHEREAS, Oak Ridge truly helped end the worst war in human history and opened the modern and very exciting nuclear age; and

WHEREAS, in 1949, the gates of Secret City were finally opened to the public in a great celebration; cars from every county in Tennessee lined up for hours before the gate-opening in order to see what all the secrecy had been about, for this newly created city of Oak Ridge could finally be recognized and shown on maps; and

WHEREAS, since its formation seventy years ago, Oak Ridge has remained on the international stage through continued breakthroughs in science, research, education, and industrial innovation; and

WHEREAS, today, Oak Ridge is a beautiful, modern city with extensive greenways, one of the best school systems in Tennessee, and a variety of industry, which still includes the intellectual descendants of the Manhattan Project, the Y-12 National Security Complex, the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), and the world-renowned Oak Ridge National Laboratory; and

WHEREAS, this body wishes to grasp this golden opportunity to honor and commend the past and present citizens of the great City of Oak Ridge; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the citizens of Oak Ridge upon the celebration of the city's seventieth anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.